7: Busuttil I, Y-4, 5 (no date) 1894
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THROWING STONES IN A WELL

787
823

Our ancestors made children believe that if they threw stones in a well or into the sea they had to lift them up some day with their eyelashes.

THIRTEEN AT TABLE

777
264
763

Sitting down thirteen to dinner is considered very unlucky.

The notion is that one of the thirteen will die within the next twenty four hours. The origin popularly assigned to this widespread superstition is the fact that thirteen was the number at the Last Supper, Judas being the thirteenth.

SNEEZING

827

The custom of saying "Evviva" or "Sahha" to one who happens to sneeze

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[827] prevails in Malta as in other parts of the world. (*)

DREAMS

[787] There is also a popular superstition in Malta to give interpretation to certain dreams.

The Maltese say that to dream of

[777] (a) fish betokens good luck

(b) the sea foreshews a great trouble

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[771] (*) Carolus Sigonius in his Hist. of Italy would deduce this custom from a pestilence that happened in the time of Gregory the Great (about the year 750) that proved mortal to such as sneezed.

In Brand's "Popular Antiquities" we read that the custom of saluting a person who sneezed was accounted very ancient, even in the time of Aristotle, who in his Problems has endeavoured to account for it, but knew nothing of its origin. According to him, the first men prepossessed with the ideas concerning the head as the principal seat of the soul, carried their respect to sternutation, as the most manifest and the most sensible operation of the head. Hence those several forms of compliments used on similar occasions amongst Greeks and Romans: *Long may you live, May you enjoy health.*